


**III. Remarks**

Reconsideration of this application in light of the above amendments is requested.

Rejected claim 12, along with non-elected claims 17-48, have been cancelled and allowed claims 2-4, 6-11, and 13-16 have been maintained in their previous form.

Inasmuch as this eradicates all outstanding issues, an early notice of allowance of claims 2-4, 6-11, and 13-16 is requested.

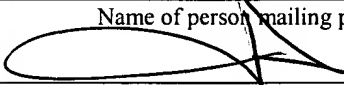
Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: 9/20/05

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EXPRESS MAIL NO.: <u>EV369674742US</u>
DATE OF DEPOSIT: <u>September 20, 2005</u>
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